

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00967 180018Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /117 W
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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3012

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0967

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: ALCAN PIPELINE ROUTE

1. VANCOUVER SUN OF SEPTEMBER 16 CARRIES OREGON DATELINE REPORT THAT B.C. PREMIER BENNETT, IN MEETING WITH OREGON, WASHINGTON, AND IDAHO GOVERNORS, APPEARS "TO HAVE CLINCHED SUPPORT" FROM THE THREE NORTHWEST STATES FOR THE ALCAN ROUTE TO BRING ALASKAN OIL TO U.S. MARKETS. BENNETT IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THE GOVERNORS ARE INTERESTED IN THE ROUTE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF CONTROVERSY IN CANADA AND THAT IS THE ALCAN ROUTE".

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS STORY, BENNETT TOLD REPORTERS THAT U.S. FEARS THAT ANY FUTURE CHANGE IN B.C. GOVERNMENT COULD LEAD TO INTERDICTION OF U.S. OIL FLOWS IF ALCAN ROUTE APPROVED ARE

"UNFOUNDED". BENNETT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PIPELINES FLOW IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND "ANYONE WHO SAYS HE WON T MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS MISREADS THE PEOPLE OF B.C."

3. NEWS ACCOUNT ALSO REPORTS BENNETT SAID HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY FURTHER REDUCTION IN NATURAL GAS EXPORTS FROM
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PAGE 02 VANCOU 00967 180018Z

B.C. TO THE U.S. BUT THAT HE HAS NO CRYSTAL BALL AND UNFORESEEN

CIRCUMSTANCES COULD ARISE. HE REITERATED STAND, HOWEVER,
THAT GAS PRICING WILL BE ON THE BASIS OF ENERGY EQUIVALENTS.

4. APPARENTLY QUESTION OF ROSS DAM WAS ALSO RAISED AT THE
QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL COMMISSION,
BUT BENNETT WOULD NOT COMMENT ON WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT THE DAM OTHER
THAN "WE HAD A VERY INTERESTING DISCUSSION".
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